

U. S. Department of Justice

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From FBI Automatic Declassification
Guide, issued May 26, 2007

Screened by NARA (RD-5) Date:
08-07-2017 FOIA case = 53811 DocID:
32967388

100

459248

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

1 - Mr. R. J. Stilling

SAC, Chicago

6/22/70

~~Director, FBI~~

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT UNION
IS - MISCELLANEOUS

Liberation News Service, a New Left media organization, in its 6/6/70 news release, contains an article captioned "High School Militants Will Meet in Chicago." According to the article the Berkeley High School Student Union (BHSSU) has called a nation-wide conference of high school radicals for 6/22-27/70 at 5655 South University, Chicago, Illinois.

The purpose of the conference according to the article is; "The conference, called by the Berkeley High School Student Union, will try to figure out the best ways to fight the tracking system, racism, male supremacy, army indoctrination, and the trampling of young people's rights that go down in Amerika's high schools, and may, according to the guess of its organizers, produce a national organization."

According to the article the headquarters for the BHSSU is 2214 Grove Street, Berkeley, California.

The San Francisco Office should promptly submit information in form suitable for dissemination concerning the captioned organization. Include information concerning leaders and leading activists, aims and objectives and activities of the BHSSU. Inasmuch as the group appears to be made up of high school students, you should conduct your investigation only through the use of established sources. The Chicago Office should promptly submit information concerning the conference in Chicago to the Bureau and office of origin in accordance with the above instructions.

MAILED 23
JUN 22 1970

2 - San Francisco

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REC-34

19 JUN 22 1970

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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

MD
PMM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : *CW* SAC, CHICAGO (100-49746) (RUC)

SUBJECT: BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT UNION
IS-MISCELLANEOUS

(OO: SAN FRANCISCO)

DATE: 7/9/70

Shirley Redford

Rebulet dated 6/22/70.

Referenced letter indicates captioned organization called for a nation-wide conference of high school radicals for June 22-27, 1970, at 5655 South University, Chicago.

Chicago files contain no reference to captioned organization.

A perusal of Chicago daily newspapers for the pertinent period showed no information about this conference.

The following confidential sources who are familiar with various phases of subversive and new left activity in the Chicago area had no information about this conference:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Date Contacted</u>	<u>Agent</u>
FOIA(b) (7) - (D)	7/2/70	SA HUGH G. MURPHY
	7/1/70	SA LEWIS E. ROSS
	7/1/70	SA LEWIS E. ROSS
	7/6/70	SA ROBERT G. GLENDON
	7/6/70	SA WILLIAM F. CRONIN
	7/6/70	SA SAMUEL P. WALLACE, JR.

1-cc 924 (9-102)
2-Bureau (RM) 707 12 2 25 EX 105
1-San Francisco (RM)
1-Chicago

HGM:smg
(4)

59JUL201970 *DW*

REC-43

100-459248-2
16 JUL 13 1970

IN/SEC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 9/30/70

FROM: *CCB PBB* SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (100-66807) (C)

SUBJECT: *ENCL* BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT UNION
IS - MISCELLANEOUS

*Mr. [Signature]
9/30/70*

Re Bulet 6/22/70, and Chicago letter 7/9/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are seven copies of an LHM. One copy of this LHM is enclosed for Chicago, concerning Berkeley High School Student Union (BHSSU).

Sources utilized in LHM are as follows:

SF T-1 is

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

SF T-2 is

CLIFFORD WONG
Principal, Berkeley High School

SF T-3 is

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

SF T-4 is

Inspector ED SKEELS
Berkeley Police Department

SF T-5 is

ORVILLE VONDEAU
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
Calais, Maine

dw
ENCLOSURE

REC-4

100-459248-3

2 - Bureau (Encs. 7) (RM)

1 - Chicago (Info.) (Enc. 1) (RM)

1 - San Francisco

RAM:jl

(4) AGENCY: ~~ACSI, OSA, OSI, SEC, SEC, STATE~~

OCT 5 1970

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RAD (SD, CRD, CDT) 10/18/70

DATE FORW: 10/18/70

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SF 100-66807
RAM:jl

SF T-6 is

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

SF T-7 is
Sergeant ROBERT HULL
University of California, Berkeley
Police Department

The Agent who observed the building at 2214 Grove Street, Berkeley, 9/24/70, was SA RICHARD A. MC INTOSH.

The enclosed LHM is classified confidential as it contains information furnished from sources of continuing value, the unauthorized disclosure of which could be detrimental to the national defense.

Due to the fact that BHSSU is a loosely structured small student organization which is apparently inactive at the present time, no further investigation in this matter is being conducted by the San Francisco Office.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Francisco, California

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

September 30, 1970

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT UNION

On September 24, 1970, SF T-1 furnished a leaflet of the Berkeley High School Student Union (BHSSU) captioned "Berkeley High School Student Union Program". This leaflet sets forth the eleven point program of the BHSSU under the following self-explanatory headings:

- 1) We will create a student union.
- 2) We will exercise our rights.
- 3) We will have a joyous movement.
- 4) We will struggle against racism.
- 5) We will fight for the liberation of women.
- 6) We will end oppressive physical education.
- 7) We will end administrative control of student activities.
- 8) We will end the principal's veto powers.
- 9) We will end suspensions and expulsions.
- 10) We will end the repression of high school students.
- 11) We will unite with other movements.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~GROUP I~~
~~EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC~~
~~DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION~~

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100-459248-3

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT UNION

Under Item 1 of this program it states:

"WE WILL CREATE A STUDENT UNION.

"Some of us learned last year that is impossible to fight for real change as individuals. We've got to be together. We must recognize our relationship as students to an oppressive system. We must then realize our need to move together to fight it. The Student Union will be the banding together of all students who want to see real change in the school. We believe in organization which brings out the leadership and creativity existing in everyone. The basic issue is getting ourselves together, uniting and fighting for common goals. Through the creation of a meaningful Student Union we will have a program to get together around."

SF T-2 advised on September 24, 1970, the BHSSU was formed in the summer and fall of 1969 by a clique of politically active students at Berkeley High School. Steve Wasserman, the BHSSU Student Body President at that time was the principal organizer and leader of the BHSSU. SF T-2 stated that he did not believe that it organized a structured body of officers and he could not recall any real leadership in the organization other than Wasserman. He stated that it was his impression that decisions of the organization were made on the basis of popular group decisions. This source further advised that the BHSSU was not an officially recognized group on the Berkeley High School campus. He stated that the BHSSU Student Body had in his opinion taken a firm stand against the group as it had not gone through regularly established channels to attempt to obtain recognition. The source further stated that the organization's principal objectives as he recalled them had been to give the students more power in running school affairs and to take authority away from the school administrators. The source stated that the group had been inactive during the summer of 1970, and had not to his knowledge had any activity during the fall semester of 1970.

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BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT UNION

The source further noted that the BHSSU had put out for a short while a publication entitled "The Pack Rat". The organization had its headquarters located in a small store-front type building located at 2214 Grove Street, Berkeley, California. The source further noted that Wasserman has since graduated from Berkeley High School.

The October, 1969, issue of "The Pack Rat", which indicates it is Volume I, Issue 1, reflects that its address is 2214 Grove Street, Berkeley. The paper in its masthead states in part "Pack Rat is not just a newspaper! It is a group of people who are working together and back each other up. Most of us are in the Berkeley High School Student Union. . . Our headquarters and office is located at 2214 Grove Street right across the street from Berkeley High School."

The June, 1970, Oakland Telephone Directory lists Berkeley High School Student Union as being located at 2214 Grove Street, Berkeley, phone 843-7500.

On September 23, 1970, SF T-3 advised that 843-7500 was established in October, 1969, and further described the group taking out this number as a high school political organization. This telephone was disconnected on July 16, 1970.

On September 24, 1970, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation observed that the building at 2214 Grove Street, Berkeley, is a small shed-like structure. The building was unoccupied at the time of observation in midafternoon and there was no sign or other indication that the BHSSU is presently utilizing this space.

On September 24, 1970, SF T-4 advised that the BHSSU has been inactive since the spring of 1970. The source stated that Steve Wasserman was the primary organizer

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BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT UNION

and leader of this group during the fall of 1969 and spring of 1970, however, the source could not furnish any information concerning other leaders or principal activists in the group.

The January 6, 1970, issue of the "Berkeley Daily Gazette", Berkeley, California, contained an article entitled, "Students Approve Cuba Trip".

It was reported in this article that the Berkeley High School student governors voted \$50 to help finance the Cuban trip of four students who planned to help the Cuban government harvest the sugar cane crop. It was also mentioned that Steve Wasserman, the Student Body President of Berkeley High School, is one of the four students who plan to make this trip. Wasserman made the motion to use student body funds to finance the trip and the student governors narrowly passed the motion.

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

On February 12, 1970, SF T-5 advised that Steve Wasserman, 14 Bonnie Lane, Berkeley, California, was among the passengers on board the buses which crossed the U.S. border at Calais, Maine to Saint Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada. These persons were scheduled to sail for Cuba from Saint John, New Brunswick, on the vessel "Luis Arcos Bergnes".

On May 8, 1970, SF T-6 identified Steve Wasserman as a person whom he actually saw in Cuba as part of the Venceremos Brigade (VB).

The VB has been publicly described as a group of American volunteers traveling to Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban government to assist the Cubans in their harvesting of sugar cane.

On September 17, 1970, SF T-7, who is familiar with various student activities in the vicinity of the University of California at Berkeley in general advised that he knew of no current activities of the BHSSU nor could he furnish any information concerning this organization.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Francisco, California

September 30, 1970

Title BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT UNION

Character

Reference San Francisco memorandum,
dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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